

Message Text

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17

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 H-02 L-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

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R 250725Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2640

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, EFIN, ADB, RP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS PROPOSES ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN

UNITY AT ADB MEETING

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1. IN HIS SPEECH AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL ADB MEETING IN MANILA ON APRIL 24, PRESIDENT MARCOS PROPOSED A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION CALLED THE ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN UNITY OR PERHAPS ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN STATES TO INCLUDE ALL STATES OF THE REGION, "EXCLUDING NO ONE AND GIVING EACH EQUAL IMPORTANCE WITH THE REST".

2. PROPOSAL WAS MADE IN PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH OF FAIRLY LONG AND RAMBLING SPEECH WHICH, WHILE PAYING DEFERENCE TO ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ADB, PHILOSOPHIZED ON NEW ROLE FOR ADB IN FACE OF MASSIVE CHANGES. BANK WAS VULNERABLE, HE SAID, TO CHARGE IT IS ENLARGING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS, AND REINFORCING CURRENT ECONOMIC ASCENDANCY OF RICH NATIONS. MARCOS CHALLENGED BANK TO BECOME INSTRUMENT NOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NATIONS, AND INDEED IN THE CONSTRUCTING OF NEW, UNIFIED WORLD ECONOMY.

3. PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THE FALL IN ASSISTANCE FROM WEALTHY NATIONS AT A TIME OF GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE, U.S. CAPITAL OUTFLOWS HAVING DECLINED AS PROPORTION OF GNP FROM .66 PERCENT TO .58 PERCENT OF GNP IN 1973. HE DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF POVERTY IN THE THIRD WORLD AND APPEALED FOR UNITY IN THE REGION, SPECIFICALLY UNIVERSALITY WHICH WOULD PERMIT PARTICIPATION OF SOCIALIST STATES IN THE ADB. HE SKETCHED OUT HIS VISION OF A NEW ADB SUBSUMING ITS POLICIES TO NATIONAL GOALS OF SELF-RELIANCE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND ACCEPTING GOAL OF ULTIMATE RESTRUCTURING OF WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS.

4. PRESIDENT THEN PROPOSED NEW ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN UNITY WHICH WOULD COVER WHAT HE EARLIER SAID ABOUT AN INTEGRATED REGIONAL PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ABOVE ALL PROVIDE THAT MEASURE OF SECURITY, NOT ONLY POLITICAL BUT ALSO ECONOMIC, FOR WHICH ASIA HAD LONG YEARNED. TEXT BEING POUCHED EA/PHL.

5. COMMENT. THERE WAS NO ADVANCE WARNING OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH, AS HE SAID IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEECH, IT WAS NOT NEW AS HE HAD EARLIER CALLED FOR AN ASIAN FORUM, A LOOSE AND AD HOC ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN LEADERS. AS SPEECH DEVELOPED, PROPOSAL WAS RELATED IN MOST MUTED WAY TO LONG PROLOGUE WHICH DEALT WITH PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND NEW MISSION OF ADB. ONE DOMINANT THEME OF SPEECH WAS CLEARLY THAT ALL STATES IN REGION, THAT IS, INCLUDING SOCIALIST STATES IN INDOCHINA PENINSULA AND PRC, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SPEECH WAS NOT ONCE
INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE, AND SO FAR AS COULD BE
DETERMINED, PROPOSAL WAS NOT COMMENTED UPON IN
SUBSEQUENT SPEECHES BY BOARD MEMBERS. LACK OF APPLAUSE
DID NOT DISGUISE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPEECH AS ANOTHER
SIGNAL OF RECENT GOP SHIFTING WITH WINDS OF CHANGE,
AS ANTI-CAPITALIST AND ANTI-WESTERN TONE NUANCES
WERE TOO NEBULOUS TO EXCITE ASIANS BUT CLEARLY
PERCEPTIBLE ENOUGH TO EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE WESTERNERS
AND AMERICANS.
SULLIVAN

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